

COMET: K1 Centre

Pro²Future – Products and Production Systems of the Future	
Main location	Linz, Upper Austria (at Johannes Kepler University Linz)
Other locations	Graz, Styria (at TU Graz); Steyr, Upper Austria (at Profactor GmbH)
Research programme	The Pro ² Future initiative builds on top of the consortiums expertise in mechatronic systems, networked embedded systems, cyber-physical systems, smart/pervasive/ubiquitous systems, systems of systems, big data analytics and data-driven predictive models, semantic and intelligent systems , and will explore innovative ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) for production systems and future products. The main emphasis is on cognitive systems.
Planned realisation and outcomes Pro ² Future attempts for next generation products and manufacturing machinery (holistically combining batch and continuous process industries), with embedded cognitive capabilities so as to perceive, understand, interpret, learn, reason and deduce , and act in an autonomous, self-organized way together with humans. This includes three major scientific areas , each taken from foundational and goal-oriented research disciplines related to cognitive systems, namely (i) Perception and Aware Systems, (ii) Cognitive Robotics and Shop Floors and (iii) Cognitive Decision Making , ultimately delivering the technological underpinning of (iv) Cognitive Products and (v) Cognitive Production Systems .	
History of establishment	The competence center founded in 2017 is endorsed by the Provinces of Upper Austria and Styria, Austria's strongest provinces in industrial leadership . The two provinces together take a 42% share of all Austria's industrial production, employing 45% of all Austria's industrial employees – at R&D quota of 3.18% (Upper Austria) and 5.16% (Styria), compared to the average of 3.09% (Austria, 2015). Pro ² Future is concerted with established Austrian COMET K1 (SCCH, WOOD, KNOW, RCPE) and K2 (LCM, Mobility) Centres, is part of the National Platform Industrie 4.0 , and is an essential player within the Linz Institute of Technology (LIT) and the Smart Factory Initiative of TU Graz .
Selected company partners (max. 10) 1. AMAG Austria Metall AG 2. AVL List GmbH 3. EPCOS OHG – TDK 4. FRONIUS International GmbH 5. KEBA AG 6. Poloplast GmbH & Co KG 7. Siemens AG 8. Trumpf Maschinen Austria GmbH & Co KG 9. voestalpine Stahl GmbH 10. Wacker Neuson Beteiligungs GmbH	Selected scientific partners (max. 5) 1. Johannes Kepler University Linz (JKU Linz) 2. Graz University of Technology (TU Graz) 3. PROFACOR GmbH 4. Austrian Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence (OFAI) 5. evolaris next level GmbH Selected international partners¹ (max. 5) 1. German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI) 2. Technische Universität München, Germany 3. University of Stuttgart, Germany 4. Université de Lorraine, France 5. Uppsala universitet, Sweden
Duration of the K1 Centre	COMET K1 4 th Call: April 2017 – March 2021 (4 years, 1 st funding period)
Staff employed at the Centre	56.5 FTE (thereof 42 scientists)
Total costs	COMET K1 4 th Call: EUR 17.3 Mio (4 years, 1 st funding period)
Management of the Centre	Univ.-Prof. Dr. Alois Ferscha, JKU Linz, CEO & Scientific Director Mag. Heimo Theuretzbacher-Fritz, CEO & Business Director
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¹ Partners with headquarters outside Austria